



News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

LAKE COUNTY CHIEF JUDGE ADDRESSES CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

Chief Judge John T. Phillips announced that the 19th Judicial Circuit hosted an event heralding Child Abuse Prevention Month in Lake County with a Blue Kids Lake County Kick-Off in the lobby of the Lake County Building on Monday, March 31, 2014 at noon.

The Blue Kids Lake County program included Roycealee Wood, Lake County Regional Superintendent of Schools, Tony Beltran, the Executive Director of the Lake County Health Department, Mike Nerheim, Lake County State's Attorney, and Aaron Lawlor, Chairman of the Lake County Board. The event was co-sponsored by the 19th Judicial Circuit Family Violence Coordinating Council, headed by Chief Judge Phillips.

The Blue Kids Lake County campaign promotes awareness of child abuse and prevention by displaying over 500 3-foot signs of children around the county at businesses, places of worship, schools, agencies and homes. The signs are blue, the color chosen to represent Child Abuse Awareness month.

In 1989, the Blue Ribbon Campaign to prevent child abuse began as a Virginia grandmother's tribute to her grandson who died as a result of abuse. She tied a blue ribbon to the antenna of her car as a way to remember him and alert her community to the tragedy of child abuse. The Blue Kids campaign supports a website that is devoted to child abuse prevention information that is available all year.

Judge Phillips said, "We are delighted to have a part in the Blue Kids Lake County Kick-Off. Blue Kids Lake County is a community partnership of agencies and community groups that come together to raise awareness of child abuse and preventing it. The judges of Lake County and our 19th Circuit Family Violence Coordinating Council support this collaborative effort. We want to do something to prevent the pain of abuse."

Mary Schostok, President of the Illinois Judges Association, offered her praise, "Those judges who have been involved in local programs to create healthy families and those judges who work with the family violence coordinating councils should be recognized for their participation during child abuse prevention month. These councils stand with Prevent Child Abuse Illinois to participate in this month-long observance to increase awareness of child abuse and ways to help prevent it."

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